NEW-YORK. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1872.

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A CARNIVAL OF FIRE. NEARLY A MILLION AND A HALF SWEPT

AWAY. BARNUM'S MUSEUM, A CHURCH, A MANUFACTORY, AND A PRINTING HOUSE DESTROYED—CON-FLAGRATIONS ELSEWHERE.

The seeds of flame seem to be scattered broadcast in the atmosphere, for before the Brooklyn architects have had time to draw the moral from the destruction of the Rev. Mr. Talmage's corrugated iron church, which burned like a tinder-box stuffed with shavings, two large fires have startled and possibly warned New-York, and conflagrations are reported in Oregon, Arkansas, and elsewhere.

Large fires have occurred in various parts of the country quite recently, but none since the Boston fire have been so disastrous as those that for a time baffled the energies of the firemen on Fourteenth and Centre-sts., and caused a loss of nearly

\$1,500,000. These two conflagrations swept away Barnum's Circus and Menagerie, Grace Chapel, a large ivory manufactory, and the New-York Printing Company's old building in Centre-st., and inflicted damage on

other preperty. The weather was intensely cold and the firemen worked in the early morning at every disadvantage, so that the apprehensions which were felt by many whose attention was attracted by the lurid glare in the sky over the Academy of Music and Tammany Hall that these buildings would be overberne in the forious march of the flames, were not without foun-

But the Fire Department was well managed, and no time was lost in the vain effort to save what would inevitably perish; and so leaving the circus building, the picturesque church, and the huge factory to their fate, the Department officials were successful in checking the progress of the first conflagration. The walls of the Academy of Music were blistered, but no damage that a glazier cannot remedy was sustained. There were many interesting episodes connected with the burning of the circus building; for only three animalstwo elephants and a camel-were saved out of Mr. Rarnum's extensive menagerie, and the rest were reasted alive in their cares.

The fire originated in the boiler-room of the circus building, but under what circumstances the Fire Marshal's investigation, which has been already begun, fails thus far to make clear.

loss by this fire does not fall very heavily upon the insurance companies, as the principal suferers, with the exception of the Church Corporation, were in great measure uninsured.

The second fire, which occurred in the early even ing, in Center-st., made so sudden and so bright a blaze that timid people were thrown into a panic, and fancied that New-York was to share the fate of Boston and Chicago; but the flames were easily confined to the hoge printing-house, in which they found life, and which they readily mastered.

A painful rumor was circulated to the effect that 20 young women employed in the bindery had been burned to death, but this was an unwholesome fie tion, bred of memories of the Fifth Avenue Hotel disaster, although several persons were injured by falling bricks, and elsewhere.

That a moral is to be drawn from this day of fire the Fire Marshal's books already indicate; for it appears that a committee appointed by the corporation of Grace Chapel had called his attention to the circus building when alterations were making, and demanded his interference in view of alleged violation of the building laws; and in a report made quite recently the radical defects in the builder's plans were officially commented upon by an Inspector of the same Department.

THE BARNUM'S MUSEUM FIRE. THE MUSEUM, GRACE CHAPEL, AND A FIVE-STORY WAREHOUSE IN RUINS-NEARLY ALL THE

ANIMALS BURNED-LOSS ABOUT \$900,000. About 4 a. m., yesterday, A. N. Nelson, watchman in the circus building in Fourteenth-st., discovered smoke issuing from a trap-door leading to the boilerroom in the back part of the basement. He quickly aroused the nine men who slept in the building, but so rapid was the march of the flames that they could do nothing toward extinguishing them; and, indeed, they could do little toward rescuing the animals, so soon was the building filled with smoke. They threw open the doors opening on Fourteenth-st., and two of the performing elephants, Jeanette and Betsy, and a camel, walked out. These were the only animals that escaped. The remaining animals, terror-stricken by the flames sweeping toward their cages, the best, and the stifling smoke dashed madly against the iron bars that confined them, or crouched in the corners of their cages, overcome with fear The performing elephant Pedro, a magnificent specimen of his kind, who arrived here only last week from Hamburg, was securely fastened by chains on his forfeet. Unavailing efforts were made to undo these, and the keepers were obliged to leave him to his fate. His shrill trumpetings could be heard for a considerable time after the advancing flames had driven away those who had vainly endeavored to rescue him.

THE FIREMEN ON THE GROUND. Meanwhile the alarm of fire had been given to the Fire Department, and was quickly responded to. Hook and Ladder Company No. 3 was the first on the ground. The entire interior of the circus building was even then a mass of flame, and Foreman Quackenbush, apprehending that the Academy of Music and Tammany Hall, opposite, were in great danger, and that Grace Chapel and the establishment of F. Grote & Co., on either side of the burning building, would almost certainly be destroyed, directed that a second and third alarm sho be sent out. This was done. The first alarm had the effect of calling to the scene Engine Companies Nos. 5, 14, 23, 26, and 18, and Hook and Ladder Companies Nos. 8, 7, and 9. The second alarm summoned Engine Companies Nos. 28, 16, 20, and Hook and Ladder Company No. 11. The third alarm called Engine Companies Nos 17, 11, 24, and Hook and Ladder Company No. 12. Chief er Perley, and District Engineers Bates, Gloquel Sullivan, Shay, Brandon, Orr, Nash, and Erlacher were also present. Chief Perley sent for Engine Companies Nos. 4, 12, 34, and 29, and Hook and Ladder Company No. 8. These were stationed to the best advantage in Thirteenth and Fourteenth-sts. and in Third and Fourth ever, and in a short time more than twenty powerful streams were directed upo the fire.

The frame-work of the offens building was of wood and the fittings were of the most inflammable character. Within ten minutes after the fire was discovered the Sames had spread through the entire building and were pouring in dense masses through the roof. On the west was a five-story iron front building, occupied by F. Grote & Co., ivory turners, and three other firms. Ar extension of this building, of the same hight, wadirectly behind the circus. Ou the sides of this building facing the circus were several windows, through which the flames poured, rendering futile all efforts of the firemen to stay their progress. On the east of the circus was Grace Chapel, a handsome building, with a single efect. A large part of the roof consisted of a skylight of colored plate glass. Borne by the heavy north-west entire roof; the plate glass was shivered, and in a few

moments the whole interior of the church was on fire. SURROUNDING PROPERTY ENDANGERED. The heat at this time was intense. The paint on the eracked and broke, a bill-board in front of the Academy was blazing brightly, and it seemed as though the build ing must go, carrying with it Tammany Hall and the buildings adjoining. In the rear of the circus, the church and Grote's establishment, were the carriage manufactories of M. Curley, Nos. 109, 111, and 113, and Miner & Stevens, Nos. 115 to 121 East Thirteenth-st., all high

buildings, and filled with inflammable material. Foreseeing that the destruction of the buildings then attention to the task of saving the adjoining buildings Streams of water were turned upon the Fourteenth at. front of the Academy of Music, and were thrown off in sted on the roofs of the Academy and Tammany Hall to see that no firebrands lodged there anawares. Lines were carried through the buildings in Thirteenth-st. and en the roofs; others were carried over the roofs of the

Lawrence mansion, east of the church, and on the smaller buildings adjoining that of Grote & Co. From every point of vantage the advance of the fiames was steadily contested; and to this persistence alone is due the fact that the fire was confined, principally, to the three large buildings, which were ultimately destroyed with their contents.

It was terribly cold, and the firemen's sufferings wer intense. The clothes of the pipemen were frozen stiff, and in many cases when they were relieved by fresh men it was found necessary to help them down the ladders and the descent was rendered still more perilons by the rungs being coated with ice. There were many frozen ears and fingers, but all worked well and deserve great credit. Fire Commissioners Hitchman, Blair, and Galway were on the ground early. By their direction the firemen were furnished with hot coffee and other refreshments at the neighboring restaurants.

A KARROW ERCAPE. The circus building was level with the ground in half an hour after the alarm of fire was given. Chief Engineer Parley says that the roof fell 20 minutes after the first engine arrived upon the ground. The remaining buildings burned flercely for some time afterward.

While the members of Hook and Ladder Companie Nos. 5 and 9 and the pipemen of engine No. 11 were in the Lawrence mansion the small dome on the roof fell in and cut off their escape by the stairway. Ladders were raised with difficulty to the roof and held in position The house stands back a little from the street and is on a small mound or hillock. This was one sheet of ice and the ladders were also encased in ice. The men in the building crawled out through the dormer windows to the coping and gained the ladders. They were assisted down by their comrades just in time to clude the flames which followed them closely, and several of them nar rowly escaped. BARNUM'S MUSEUM.

The circus building, menagerie, and most of the wardrobes and properties belonged to P. T. Barnum & Co. The firm consisted of P. T. Barnum, his son-inlaw, S. H. Hurd, Dan. Castello, and Wm. C. Coup. Hurd and Coup were the business managers, and Dan. Castello was the equestrian manager. Mr. Barnum is in New-Orleans with his circus, a portion of the mammeth troupe with which he traveled last Summer.

The building was purchased of Mr. Lent last August. with the lease of the ground, which has several years yet to run. The entire interior was remodeled at an expense of about \$50,008. The ring was lowered ten feet, and a parquette and balcony capable of seating 3,000 persons were constructed. The interior fittings were equal to those of a first-class theater. There were a considerable number of orchestra chairs, and these and the parquette seats were bandsomely upholstered. It was intended to be equal to any metropolitan place of entertainment. The front of the building was widened and carried up to a hight of 40 feet. It had a frontage of 125 feet, and a depth of 110 feet, or a little more than five full city lots. On Thanksziving night the receipts were \$1,800. The management had just brought out the pantomi me of "Hine Beard," at a cost of \$5,000. All the members of the troupe took part in 1t, and all had been provided with new costumes. It was well received, and the management expected that it would run through the helidays with ull houses. Mr. Hurd estimates the total loss at about \$000,000, and there is only an insurance of \$90,000, mostly in companies out of town. The policies are in the safe, which has been removed from the ruins to the manufactory of Herring & Co.

THE MENAGERIE. The menageric was the finest in the country. Nearly all of the animals were imported expressly for Barraum & Co., and were good specimens of their kind. The elephant, Pedre, which was burned, was brought over last week from Hamburg. The elephants Jeanette and Retay, and the double-hamped camel, that were saved, were driven to the stable of the Hudson River Railroad Company at Ninth-ave, and Thirtieth-st. The following is a list of the animals burned:

One elephant, 4 giraffes, 7 camels and dromedaries, 2 magnificent Abyssinian lions, 3 sea lions, the only ones tigers, 1 African leopard, 1 African eland, 1 Asiatic yak, 1 gnu (horned horse), 1 chacuna, the largest of the baboon tribe; the celebrated Happy Family, consisting of a number of animals, among them a raccoon, rat, dog, cat, and other small animals, and a number of birds, living together in the same case; a large collection of apes, gerfilas, monkeys, raccoons, and small animals, pelicans, ostriches, and other rare birds; & large anacondas and on constructors in a cage.

The horses were all stabled in Eleventh-st., and so were saved. Efforts were made to save the giraffes by the keepers, but the animals were so frightened that they refused to stir. They were the only specimens in

THE CIRCUS. There were on the pay-roll 150 employes. About 100 of these were in the arente department, and the remainder were employed elsewhere. The circus was in every spect one of the best appointed in the country, and induded some of the finest male and female riders in the profession. James Melville, the famous bareback rider and his two sons, lost wardrobes and effects valued a \$1.000. Mme. Dockrill, her husband and several other performers, lose about the same amount. Fred Lazelle and Wm, Millson, the trapeze performers, lose a wardrobe valued at \$500. Prof. Hartmann, leader of the orchestra, loses \$800 worth of music, and a cornet, value 80. The remaining 16 musicians lose all their instruments. In addition to these the following lose their wardrobes and effects, ranging in each case from \$200 to

Mons. D'Atelie, the Iron Jaw Man; Mile. Angela, his wife, known as the Female Samson, and their two children; Prof. Monteverde, the contortionist; Mile. La Blanche, equestrienne; Lee and Dunbar, clowns, and the French clowns; Zuleima Agra, the Circassian girl, who lost her wardrobe on the occasion of the burning of the Museum in Broadway, near Spring-st.; the Albino Family, the head of which, in addition to his wardrobe lost a violin worth \$100; Goshen, the Arabian Giant; Admiral Dot, who lost his carriage and entire outfit Gee and North riders, and very many others. Nothing was saved. The watchman even lost his trunk, contain ing \$150 worth of wearing apparel.

THE SHOWMAN UNDIEMATED. Mr. Hurd sent the following dispatch to Mr. Barnum

NEW-YORK, Dec. 24.

To P. T. BARNUM, New-Orleans:

About 4a. m. fire discovered in boiler-room of circus building; everything destroyed except 2 elephants, 1 camel.

B. H. HURD.

At 5 p. m. Mr. Hurd received the following reply :

To S. H. Hund, New-York:

NEW-ORLEANS, Dec. 24.

Tell editors I have cabled European agents to expend half million dollars for extra attractions; will have now and more attractive traveling show than ever early in April.

P. T. Bakkum.

Mr. Hurd and his partner have established temporary hes quarters at 616 Broadway. It is not likely that they will attempt to form another circus and measure before

E. W. Wallcett, one of Mr. Barnum's purchasing agenta, who came here from Hamburg, bringing the elephant Pedro, says that he is confident a new and complete menageric can be procured by Spring. Mr. Barnum has new a number of agents in various parts of Europe, engaged in making purchases of cariosities of various kinds and rare animals, and they are now ready to forward a number of specimens. In addition to these, the house of Hazenbeck, in Hamburg, constantly keeps on hand, or can readily obtain wild animals of almost any description. A hippopotamus has already been se-cured in Egypt, and will seen be sent to this country.

Mr. Barnum's "American Museum" formerly occupied the present atte of The Herald building, at Broadway and Ann-et., and it was doubtless the finest coffection of curiosities and animals that has over been brought to gether in America. On July 12, 1885, a fire broke out in the refectory in Ann-st., under the Museum, and despite the most atrenuous efforts of the firemen, the fisher soon enveloped the entire building and leveled it with the ground. The structure belonged to the Astor estate, and was a total loss; its contents were insured for a little over \$75,000. Mr. Barnum was, as at the time of his

latest disaster, absent from the city.

Mr. Barnum's first misfortune did notatall dismay him. for he immediately leased the old " Chinese Museum building. Nos. 537, 539, and 541 Broadway, and soci opened a theater and menagerie, in which were thou-sands of valuable animals, collected by him during a trip made for that purpose in Europe. His new enterprise succeeded admirably, but on the night of March 5, 1868, are again consigned his museum to ashes. The night of the disaster will ever be remembered by New-York firemen. It was bitterly cold, and several of the hydrants were frozen so that it was propossible to obtain water from them. The building after the fire presented a very picturesque appearance, coatings of toe enveloping the

walls of the edifice. Even this second fire did not daunt him, for he immediately made another collection GRACE CHAUEL.

Grace Chapel was built in 1857 by the con-"Grace Church, in accordance with designa furnished by Reawick Brothers, architects, and at a cost of \$45,000. The church had a very handsome exterior, which although of brick, was so gracefully proportioned that the simplicity of the materials used was forgotten in admiration of the beautiful effect produced. The interior was also very handsome. A semi circular ceiling of blue was supported by slender gray Corinthian columns. The body of the church was filled with black walnut seats. The chancel, galleries and organ loft were also of black walnut.

The organ case was of some antiquity, having been made in Holland and brought to this country for what was then known as the Middle Dutch Church; now used as the city Post-Office. The case was given to the chapel by A. T. Stewart, who purchased the relie with other property upon buying a church building, a few years

From the day its doors were thrown open until the evening previous to the fire, the building was a free church. Its seats were free to all, and its members claimed that a larger proportion of rich and poor per-sons mingled in worship within its walls than in any other church in the city. Its first pastor was the Rev Robert G. Dickson, who devoted his attention largely to the organization of societies within the church for the relief of the poor. At present, the following societies are supported by the church members : The St. Luke's Association, the Ladies' Missionary Relief Association the Ladies' Aid Society, the Ladies' Society for Employ ing Poor Women, and the Industrial School. All of the societies had clothing and other goods stored in the basement of the church, for distribution among the poor during the present Winter. The present rector, the Rev. J. W. Kramer, announced to his congregation, yester day, that the Christmas Day services would be held in Nilsson Hall, in East Fifteenth-st., near Irving-place.

No property was saved from the church; the rector' fibrary, cushions, books, and Christmas decorations all being destroyed. The building was still owned by the corporation of Grace Church, and was insured for \$60,000, although valued at \$75,000. The insurances were in strong companies, but owing to an unwillingness on the part of members of the Church corporation to roveal the names of the lasing companies, the proportion of losses could not be ascertained. It was learned, however, that the insurance was divided among 10 companies, in policies ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000 each.

In September, the rector, Mr. Kramer, observing the highly unsafe manner in which the museum building was being reconstructed, wrote a letter to the Grace Church corporation asking that the insurances on the church should be increased. The insurance was then \$30,000. Before acting on the rector's advice, the corporation thought it wise to appoint a committee of three to walt upon Superintendent Macgregor of the Department of Buildings and request him to forbid the crection of a wooden addition to the museum Mr. Macgregor on being visited, ordered one of his deputy inspectors to go to the museum with the Corps ration's Committee and examine the building. The Church Committee consisted of Mr. Hugh Auchin of Nos. 47 and 49 White-st., Benjamin B. Sherman of No. 26 Wall-st., and Lloyd W. Wells of No. 119 Second-ave. The members of the Committee polated out to the inspector how wooden planking had been placed against the entire side wall of the church, and how the church roof would inevitably be ignited if the roof of the theater ever caught fire. The inspector replied that the corrugated iron over the museum front ald certainly protect the church from being fired ou the street side, and that firemen could easily guard the church roof if the museum ever caught fire. The inspector accordingly reported to Superintendent Macgregor that the museum building in no manner endangered the church, and the work of remodeling the museum into a tinder-box was allowed to go on.

The Church Committee were not convinced, bowever, by the inspector's reasoning, and at once obtained \$20,000 additional insurance, although they had to pay very high rates. The building cannot be replaced for

less than \$75,000.
THE IVORY FACTORY.

F. Grote & Co.'s new building, No. 14i East Pourtcenth-st. which was destroyed, was valued at \$80,000, and contained stock and machinery worth about \$250,000, making a total loss of about \$430,000. The struc-ture was completed last March. The main structure was five stories in hight, with an ornamental iron front and side and rear walls of brick.

It covered an area of 25 feet front by 100 feet in depth In the rear was a four-story brick extension, 25 feet by 96 feet, at right angles with the main structure, and running entirely behind the museum. The extension, which at an early stage of the confagration, and the flames quickly extended to the main building.

The becomes from the Corona regiment and bands.

The busement and first and third floors of the main buliding and the whole of the extension was occupied by the owners, F. Grote & Co., manufacturers and deal ers in ivory goods. Their losses are estimated by themselves at \$80,000 on the building, \$250,000 on stock, and \$75,000 on machinery; total, \$405,000. The insurance of Mesars, Grote is only \$140,000, in various companies whose names could not be furnished by the firm whose books are buried in their safes, beneath the ruins.

A. J. Deets, bookkeeper for the firm, states that he arrived at the establishment before the flames had gained dangerous headway; that he could have rescued the books and papers from the safes, but was prevented by the police. He also states that he could have saved about \$50,000 worth of valuable ivery goods if he had not on restrained by the police and the insurance patrol. He says that when the patrol arrived they covered the

stock with tarpaulins, and refused to permit it to be moved to a place of safety; that when the fire had gained such headway that nothing could be saved, the patrol transferred the tarpaulins to the Academy of Music, and that the patrol at no time made any other effort to save the stock than by temporarily covering portions of it with the tarpaulius.

The second floor of the main building was occupied by C. C. Reed & Co., dealers in varnish, &c., whose stock was valued at about \$12,080, the insurance on which could not be ascertained. The offices of this firm were expensively furnished, and elaborately fitted up with black walnut and oak. The loss on furniture and fittings

The fourth floor was occupied as a cord and tasse manufactory by Jackson & Co., whose loss is about The fifth floor was occupied by Charles Reinwarth, manufacturer of piane strings, whose loss is about \$5,000.

Mr. Reinwarth fell upon the sidewalk and fractured his

leg, last Saturday, and is now sick at his residence. Mr. Grote resides at Fordham with one of his sons who is a member of the firm. On Monday he completed his 54th year, and was commemorating the anniversary of his birthday a few hours before the destruction of his establishment.

The upper stories of the carriage manufactory of Miner & Stevens, in the rear of their show rooms and directly in the rear of the circus, were badly damaged by fire, and the lower part by water. The front building escaped simest unharmed. The firm estimates its los at about \$10,000; fully insured by city and out-of-town

M. Curley, carriage manufacturer, estimates his loss at \$1,500; insured for \$45,000.

The Lawrence mansion, adjoining Grace Chapel, was Hon. Abraham R. Lawrence. Loss on building and fur-

niture, \$5,000; insured by city companies. The Academy of Music was slightly damaged. The paint was bedly blistered, and there were about 160 panes of window-glass smashed. These have nearly all sen replaced by a small army of glaziers. There was very little water thrown into the building not enough

The Fair of St. Ann's R. C. Church, held in the Academy, is in nowise interrupted by the fire. FIRE MARSHAL'S INVESTIGATION.

Fire Marshal McSpedon begun to take testimony yesterday afterboon in relation to the Museum

fire.

Robert Tilson testified: I live at No. 40 East Twenty-sixth-st, and am engineer and gas man at Barnun's Museum: I have no certificate or license as engineer; I have been employed there about five or six weeks; I spylled for a heense last week; we use one of Haker & Smith's heaters; they are low-preserte, and carry from three to five pounds of steam; the inspector said that he did not think it necessary to have an engineer for one of their heaters. Baker & Smith's men did the steam fitting; we had no fire in the place except under this Baker & Smith boiler; I was

Boo Fifth Page

FOREIGN NEWS.

FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES. THE POSTAL CONVENTION NOT YET SIGNED. Paris, Tuesday, Dec. 24, 1872.

The Temps says the postal treaty between Prance and the United States has not yet been signed. The final act will be deferred until the reopening of the Assembly.

SLAVERY IN PORTO RICO.

MEASURE TO PREVENT THE TRANSPORTATION OF SLAVES TO CUBA-QUESTION OF INDEMNIFI-CATION FOR EMANCIPATED SLAVES.

Madrid, Tuesday, Dec. 24, 1872. During the session of the Cortes, yesterday, schor Martos, Minister of Foreign Affairs, announced that the Government had taken measures to prevent persons purchasing slaves in Porto Rico and conveying them to Cuba. Señor Diaz asked if the owners of slaves in Porto Rico were to be indemnified for the property they would lose by the passage of the bill providing for the emancipation of the slaves on that island. Senor Martos requested Señor Diaz to postpone his question until debate on the bill was opened in the Cortes.

WRECK OF THE STEAMSHIP GERMANY. THE FACT OF THE WRECK SUBSTANTIATED-CONTRADICTORY REPORTS RESPECTING THE FATE OF THE PASSENGERS.

LONDON, Tuesday, Dec. 24, 1872. The vessel wrecked at the mouth of the iver Gironde, Saturday, reported in a Paris dispatch yesterday as the Liverpool packet Germania, was be yond quostion the Allan ii o steamship Germany, which sailed from Liverpool on the 17th instant, for Havana and New-Orleans, with leave to call at Corunna and

No particulars have yet come to hand in addition to those received yesterday, reporting that during a storm the vessel went ashore Saturday evening on a sand-bank at the mouth of the Gironde, and the passengers and erew had to take to the rigging, from which 30 persons were washed away and drowned. The remainder were rescued Sunday morning by a French steamship.

LATER.—It is now known that the vessel which went ashere at the mouth of the river Gironde was the Allan line steamship Germany, from Liverpool for Havana and New-Orleans. Messrs. Allan Brothers & Co., of Liverpool, in response to a telegram from the London agent of the New-York Associated Press asking if they had received any information of the disaster, replied, "Yes, it

s our steamer Germany, unfortunately."

MONTREAL, Dec. 24.—The Messrs. Allan have received a cable dispatch, dated yesterday, announcing the loss of their steamship Germany on the coast of France. Their dispatch states that the passengers and crew were

THE INSURRECTION IN CUBA. REPORTS OF CUBAN SUCCESSES FROM A SPANISH

REPORTS OF CUBAN SUCCESSES FROM A SPANISH SOURCE.

Bassa (Nov. 20) Correspondence of La Press of Madrid.

For some time the operations of our forces in the field have been conducted on the defensive, throughout the Central and Eastern Departments, while the rebels show great activity, to judge from the almost simultaneous attacks on sundry large settlements. Among these may be clied those made on the towns of Guisa Sal and El Caño.

The number of rebels in the attack on Guisa was 1,000. They were under command of C. Garcia, and, according to all Government private dispatches, it is evident that the rebels most possession of the place, moving at will through its atrects as long as they thought it convenient, after 24 hours' occupation. It is to be presumed that their main object was to liberate the political prisoners held there under sentence of death, beside commemorating the anniversary of the declaration of independence at Yara.

And Government omits to say what became of the prisoners, several of whom were under sentence of death by court-martial. Therefore it is likely that Gen. Garcia was successful in the gallant rescue of so many lives. The attack on El Caño was made by a force of soo rebels under the immediate command of the commanding general, Modesto Diaz. Our forces fought bravely, and a great deal of blood flowed on our side, baseans a religibing force coming from Manzandle fell. bravely, and a great deal of blood flowed on our side, basanan a relieving force coming from Manzaullo fall into an anouscade, and was cut to pieces before reaching its destination. This force was commanded by Lieut.-Gov. Daza, who was summadly superseded, by order of Gen. Riqueline, soon after this occurrence. The settlement of Sal was taken by 300 rebels; the commander was unknown, though it was probably either Figueredo or Vega. Our forces, with a few volunteers, were repulsed and competied to take shelter within the fortified camp, after a spirited engagement outside, in which they lost soverely.

fortified camp, after a spirited engagement outside, in which they lost soverely.

Several other encounters of less importance occurring about this time strongly corroborate the beilef in the activity, boldness, and strength of the rebels. Capt. Testa, in command of 37 regulars and 16 scouts, went out to endeavor to redstablish telegraphic communication between Paso Malo and Holguiu, cut off by rebels. He suddenly became engaged with a superior force; Testa and the majority of his command were killed, in spite of movements of several of our detachments operating in the vicinity, whose arrival at the scene of the disaster was unfortunately too late to prevent the disaster.

At Manantuaba, county of St. Leg. (1)

tached companies from the Corona regiment and bands of scouts and sharpshooters at the Yaya Mountains, this proving a very bloody affair. Several other encounters at salinas, county of Puerto Principe, and sundry other places of the same, are reported between the royal troops and the robels. The garrison or patrol on San Manuel Plantation was attacked by the rebels, and although our reports dwell at length upon the bravery of the patrol, the fact is that the enemy took possession of the place.

Nothing has done us more mischief than the system of misrepresentations adopted by our authorities and roll.

of the place.

Nothing has done us more mischief than the system of misrepresentations adopted by our authorities and military commanders in Coba, in order to mislead the Home Government; this fact is not as yet thoroughly realized, since, in spite of the sensible hints by the Byoca correspondent, the system of lying is tonactously preserved in and every mail forwarded to Spain contains a tissue of fables, so grossly incorrect that they are in themselves enough to bring discredit upon the best of causes. For instance, they assert that the Cinco Villas are pacified, while in the same breath they proceed to report encounters had with the Rebels within their district. Supposing the County of Trinidad blessed with peace and order, they deprecate the want of hands to till the soil, because all men capable of bearing arms have joined Villamil's forces in their incursions into the Central Department.

Meanwhile the conscription of males, to work upon and garrison the Trocha is actively maintained on a large scale. By this means the Government renders itself unpopular, because no sensitive person can bear such as abuse of brute ferce without indignation. Of course this is but a preconcerted policy to propriate the volunteers, since, as I had occasion to mention in my previous letter, not a single Spaniard has thus far been drafted. Even Lamb-like men would turn into lions after such miquities.

One thing is certain, that every individual forced to go

one thing is certain, that every individual forced to go the Trocha would prefer to desert to the rebels than One thing is certain, that every individual forced to go to the Trocha would prefer to desert to the rebels than work under the unsparing lash of the releatiess overseers. The Trocha is the wonderful invention of the cuming Gen. Valmaseda; and its counterpart is now proposed by the ingulous Gen. Riguelme. The Court receptions at Madrid are more fitting for the latter, because he does not seem to possess the ability to control so difficult a campaign as this.

Since he took charge of affairs nothing of note has been done. Now he has conceived the idea of dividing the army of operations into four corps, and this concentration of forces implies the lie direct to the oft-repeated assurances of the insignificance of the rebels.

FOREIGN NOTES. The Hon. R. C. Schenck, the United States

Minister to Eugland, has returned to London from his visit to Italy, and assumed the duties of his office.

Dispatches received by the Government at Madrid from the provinces give accounts of the dispersing of various Carlist bands by the troops. The Republican band in Murcia, under Galvez, has been surprised and broken up. Thursday, as well as Wednesday, of this

cek will be strictly observed as a holiday in London. The examination, in the London court, of Mr. Robert Bowles of the firm of Bowles Brothers has been postponed for one week. The prisoner has found ball for that time and been released.

THE SUSAN B. ANTHONY ELECTION CASE. ROCHESTER, Dec. 24 .- The examination of everly W. Jones, Edwin T. Marsh, and William B. Hail, the Inspectors who permitted Susan B. Anthony to vote at the late election, before United States Commissioner A. P. Ely, on a charge of permitting women to vote, was oncluded to-day. John B. Pound, Deputy United States District Attorney, made an argument in behalf of the prosecution, and Miss Susan B. Anthony appeared counsel for the Inspectors and made an able argument in their behalf. The decision of the Commissioner is not

in their benair. The decision of the Commissioner is yet announced.

The argument in the case of Susan B. Anthony concluded on Tuesday before Commissioner Storrs, Judge H. R. Seiden and John Van Voorhis appearing as counsel for her, and Deputy United States District Attorney Pound for the Government: The decision was postponed until Thursday next.

THE RISE IN THE OHIO RIVER. Madison, Ind., Dec. 24 .- The rise in the Ohio over reached here about 1:30 o'clock, this afternoon reaking up a gorge in the river and leaving huge cake of ice to carry everything before them. The steamer ien. Buell and Nat Williams and the ferry boat Belle of

also carried away or sunk. The Gen. Buell lies in four feet of water, and if the river recedes will probably be

TERRIBLE RAILROAD SLAUGHTER.

TRAIN THROWN FROM A TRESTLE NEAR MAY-

VILLE, N. Y .- EIGHTEEN PERSONS CRUSHED OR BURNED TO DEATH-PARTIAL LIST OF

THE VICTIMS. [BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

MAYVILLE, N. Y., Dec. 24 .- The afternoon mail train, consisting of an engine, baggage-ear, and one bassenger coach, on the Buffalo, Corry and Pittaburgh road, which passed here at 2:52 to-day, met, just this side of Prospect, a station three miles north, with an accident, by which 18 people were crushed or burned to death.

The approach to Prospect Station is over a trestle bridge, about 60 feet high, and when within about 20 rods of this bridge, a tender wheel broke, but the train kept the tracklantil the trestle was reached, when the two cars were thrown off and down into the ravine below, a distance of 30 feet. They took fire almost immediately from the overturned stoves, and before help could reach the passengers 18 were dead, either crushed or burned, while a large number were wounded. The following are known to have been

Frank Taylor, baggage master. Mark Haight, Broston, N. Y. W. H. Mabrone, Westfield, N. Y. Mr. Newton, (or Mr. Byon, not known which,) Irving,

C. Maloney, road master.

The following is a partial list of the injured: Maggie Curtan; Wilbur F. Rice and wife, Titusville,

Penn.; Henry Miller, J. J. Marsh, Titusville, Penn.; W. H. Lee, Corry, Penn.; Jacob Berline, Irving, N. Y.; W. H. Ticknor, Titusville, Penn.; Levi Briggs, Angola, N. Y; Jno. A. Hilton, Eochester, N. Y.; John Cowdy, Corry, very badly injured; Mrs. James M. Curtin, Elza Quealy, Ripley, N. Y.; Fay Flanders, conductor, badly burned and will probably die; Mr. Dunham, Brocton; Col. Bacon, mail agent, dangerously injured.

The train was filled with passengers, there having been over 40 in the passenger coach, thus accounting for the terrible slaughter. The trestle-work of the bridge caught fire, and added fuel for the destruction of the cars. Everything possible is being done for the wounded sufferers, but it is thought a number more will die.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT. [GRAERAL PRESS DISPATCH.]

CORRY, Pa., Dec. 24-Midnight.-This afternoon at 3:15 o'clock, as the mail train on the Buffalo, Corry, and Pittsburgh Railroad, leaving Corry at 1:20 p. m. neared Prospect, and when within about 80 rods of the station, the train was thrown off the track at a trestle work, the passenger and baggage cars and tender falling a distance of 26 feet, while the engine passed over unburt.

To the present time the dead bodies of 13 persons have been recovered, some of which are fearfully burned; and 35 persons are known to have been wounded, some of them seriously. Among the dead

Frank Taylor, baggage-man, of Corry. E. Bacon of Brocton, mail agent. Con. Maloney of Brocton, track-master.

Mr. Haite of Brocton. The others are at present unrecognizable owing to the charred and blackened state of the corpses.

Among the injured are: Fay Flanders of Corry, conductor; W. H. Ticknor of Titusville, seriously; J. Cowdry, employé of the Phila-

delphia and Eric Road at Corry. Orville Swift of the firm of Hollister, Swift & Co., insurance agent of Corry, is missing. The accident was caused by a broken rail. Flanders will probably lose the toes of one foot and the other foot entire from burns. He is also slightly wounded internally, and will probably recover.

FATAL RUNAWAY IN BROOKLYN.

A WOMAN DROWNED IN A CLOSED COACH. Shortly before 1 o'clock yesterday morning he horses attached to a coach belonging to the livery stable of Tilton & Jamison, at Nos. 35 and 37 West Twenty-ninth-st., took fright near Washington-et. and Myrtle-ave., Brooklyn, and, the wheels being caught for a moment by the street-car rails on Myrtle-ave., William Gallaher, the driver, was thrown to the ground, and was badly bruised. He rose and ran after the team as fast as possible, but they had got a block the start of him,

Officer Kee, who was on duty on High-st., heard the noise, and hurried toward the horses, but could not stop They went on at an increasing speed down the steep hill, and rushed over the wharf, striking the water nearly twenty feet out. Sergeaut Carrougher had meanwhile joined Officer Kee, and Capt. McConnell and Sergeaut Cain were also soon on the spot. One of the horses was struck by the coach, which was turned over in falling, and was instantly killed, but the other struggled in the floating ice for some minutes. At last a boat was procured, the horses were cut loose, and ropes were passed under the carriage, by which it was drawn toward the wharf, and so far raised from the sed under the carriage, by which it was water that the doors could be got at. They were either astened or had become stuck while in the water, and had to be smashed in by an oar. A woman, already dead, was found within. She was dressed in black silk, and a dark fringed shawl was thrown over her shoulders. She wore two diamond rings of great richness and other jewelry of value, and had about her person more than \$200. She proved to be Hettie Adams, the keeper of a house of assignment a No. 56 West Twelfth-st., New-York. She had started her house and was drunk. The driver asserts that he is a man of prominence, but refused to give his name or to

The horses were fine grays, and, with the carriage, were worth \$2,000. The gold-mounted set of harness cost \$350. There seems to be a kind of fatality about this wharf. About two years ago, on a cold night, a team belonging to Montgomery Queen went over it, but was saved. Later a team belonging to the Brooklyn Ice Company went over at the same point, and one of the horses was drowned.

The woman was well on toward middle age, and was

not especially handsome. She had, however, a most attractive manner, and was much admired. She had higher toilets than most women of her class, and seldom dressed gaudily, though occasionally, as in the present ustance, she displayed considerable jewelry. She was a steady attendant on the Prospect Park races, always appearing with a costly turn-out, and often accompanied by younger courtesans. On such occasions the members of various city clubs thronged about her. She was started in her calling by the late Sheriff Lynch, whose mistress she was, and the baser class of politicians have been her constant patrons. Her house was an elegant brown-stone mausion, luxuriously fitted up, and was much resorted to by girls and married women whose fathers or husbands could not furnish them with all the money they wanted. She skept their names strictly secret, which was doubtless a great element of her success Her body has not as yet been claimed, and awaits the action of the Coro ners.

PETROLEUM PRODUCERS IN COUNCIL. OIL CITY, Dec. 24 .- The Petroleum Producers' Council in session here to-day passed the following

has an well pumping more than the active per large per large.

Fifth: The Executive Committee are instructed to put into immediate operation the contract between producers and refiners,
Sight: A committee shall be appointed to fix with refiners the price is to paid for 12-gravity oil produced in Fifth District.

The agreement between producers and refiners and trunk line railroads, dated March 25, 1872, forbidding all rebates and drawbacks, is continued in full force. The producers discussed the whole matter thoroughly, and will act in good faith with the refiners. They will also do all in their power to stop over-production.

The Philadelphia Grand Jury has returned a

CHRISTMAS.

TO-DAY'S OBSERVANCE.

Once more in the ceaseless roll of years the dawn of another holy festal day breaks upon the world, bringing, as of old, "Glad tidings of great joy." Bright anticipations, with visions of good things innun have occupied the minds of the children for weeks, and almost every one has looked forward with hopes aglow to the tokens of love and good will which merry Christmas was sure to bring. To-day these, crystalizing into joyful readities, will draw tighter the cords of affection about thousands

counted as the day approached!

All day yesterday the tide of purchasers ebbed and lowed along the sidewalks of Broadway. A cold Decemper wind whistled through the streets, but from the thop windows beamed a cheerful glow, and even the thinly clad paused now and then, with sparkling eyes, at the sight of some tempting holiday device. Every one had a parcel, large or small, and every one hurried along the street as if only a few minutes were left in which to complete the Christmas investments. Broadway was not thronged in the evening, but in the Bowery the side-walks were fringed with eager, goodhumored crowds. Doslers in provisions, candies, and fruits were especially lavish n holiday enticements. In some shops a plump deer, flanked with wild turkeys, bung above a Christmas-tree. with a pigeon, or a grouse perched on each branch; again there were wreaths and stars and feetoons of evergreen suspended above haunches of meat, and generous dishes of game and tish, with the boar's head for a center piece, with jars of jelly and parsley. In all the florists' shops the display of Christ-

The markets were thronged from dawn until midnight, the rich being the earliest customers. They sent their

CHRISTMAS SERVICES.

CELEBRATION OF THE DAY IN THE CHURCHES. In accordance with the usual custom, services

and other churches to-day, in many of which the musical exercises will be a most important feature. Great proparations in this respect have been made by the various choirs, and the programmes presented in some of the cading churches are exceedingly fine.

10:30 o'clock. The following is the programme: 1. Ringing the changes on eight bells. 2. Carol, Christmas is Come Again. 3. Carol, Christmas Guest. 4. Carol, Ring toe Bolls for Christmas Morn. 5. Carol, Christmas Bolls. 6. Carol, Ring out the Fiells.

The morning service of prayer and praise will take place at 9 a. m., and the service of the Hely Communion will be held at H s. m., the Rev. Dr. Cattby and the Rev.

are hardly equal to those of former years. Evergreens in profusion deck the walls and gallery, and flowers about the altar and chancel brighten the scene. The festival of the Sunday-school children was held in the church at 3:30 p. m. yesterday, with singing, addresses,

service of prayer, with the celebration of the Holy Communion, at II a. m., the Rev. Dr. Potter officiating. The music, which has been selected with great care, will be

Venite, in C, S. P. Warren; Gloria in Excelsis, in D, Geunod; Te Deum, in E flat, S. P. Warren; Jubliste, in E flat, Back; Hymu II. "Hark! the herald angels sing," Mendelssohu; Kyrie Eleison, Goss; Hymu Is. "Waile Suppherds Watched," Willis; Offertory Anthem, "King all Glorious," Earnby. The services of the Chapel, in East Fourteenth-st.,

Church at 3:30 p. m. on Friday.

Mass will be celebrated at S a. m., by the Very Rev. Vicar-McCloskey will celebrate Pontines: High Mass, when the

programme of music will be as follow:

Archbishop, with the following music:

At St. Thomas's Church, at Pifth-ave. and Fifty-thirdst., the services will begin at 7:30 a. m., with Christmas hymns and carols. Morning prayer and the Holy Com munion will take place at 11 a. m., with a sermon by the Rector, the Rev. Dr. W. F. Morgan. The music is under the direction of George William Warren, the organist,

according to the following programme:

Processional, "Hosanna to King David's Son," H. S. Cutier: Venite, Sth Gregorian Tone; Te Deum Laudamus, Jubilate Deo, anthems in F Major, A. H. Pease; Introit, "O Thou that Tellest" (Sfeasian), Handel; Kyris Eleison, J. Baptist Caikin; Gloria Tibi, Zingarelli; Hymn 46. Prayer-Book; "Messiah is King," G. W. W.; Ascription, "Glory to God in the Highest," Mozart; Offertory, "Charity" (for soprano and contraito, with solo), Rossini: Ante-Communion) for violiu, harp and organ), Bach and Gounod; Ter Sanctus, Novello; Hynn 95 (Prayer-Book.) "To Christmas," Handel; Gloria in Excelsis; Recessional, "Brightest and Best," Avison.

orchestra accompaniment, by a solo choir and a chorus of 50 members of the St. Stephen's Musical Association,

At Christ Church (P. E.) early service will be held a

At Christ Church (P. E.) early service will be held at 7:30 a. m., with the following selections:

Processional Hymu-"Shout the Glad Tidings," Avison. Hallelqiah Chorus (50 voices), Oratorio of the Mossiah, Handel. "Praise ye the Lord" (trio), arranced from Attila," Verdi. Christmas Carol (soprane sole and chorus), "Ring out the Bells," Paustina H. Hodgus Gloria-From Third Mass, Haydn. To Deumo-Arranged by Mora, from Mercadalite's Third Mass. Bass Solo-"The People that Walked in Darkness," Handel's Messiah. Soprane Recitative and Chorus-" Glory to God," Handel's Messiah. Responses to Commandments-"Glory be to Thee, O God," Catler, Offertory-" He that Soweth Little," Dachauer. Offertory-" We thank Thee, O God," Cutler, Sanctus-From Twelfth Mass, Mosara Frocessional Hymn 324—Hymns Ancient and Modern, Dykes. Gloris in Excelsis (60 voices)-From Twelfth Mass, Mosara Processional Hymn 324—Hymns Ancient and Modern Barnby.

At 11 a. m., the regular morning services, with cen mon, will occur. The music, which will be conducted by Dr. Cutier, organist, will comprise, in part, "Gloris in Excelsis," from Mozart's Twelfth Mass; Kotechmar's

PREPARATIONS FOR THE HOLIDAY.

of loving hearts, and serve perhaps to lighten the bur den of many a weary struggling soul. With what anxiety has its coming been looked forward to, and how eagerly have the

mas flowers was unusually flue, and in the confectioners' windows candles were piled in many-tinted heaps.

stewards when the sun was low to buy, without regard o price, so long as the best bird and the daintiest side-dish was secured. The middle classes went to market at medium bours, when the stalls were stripped of the choicest viands, but where the substantials remained. The evening markets were a confusion of rough manners and high voices, with an undertone of good humor running through them. Even as late as 12 o'clock the supplies for the morrow had not all been obtained, and dilatory householders were elbowing their way out of the markets armed with lean turkeys and celery-colored candles and Christmas evergreens. Services will be held in all the churches of the city; the places of business will remain closed during the day, and the various benevolent institutions will provide good cheer for all their guests. Thus Christmas will have its hallowing influences, and every one, whether rich or poor, will feel that the current of his life has been deepened and purified by his Christmas, whether passed at the fire-side, at the places of worship, or at the refuges which Charity has built for the sorrowing and the unfortunate.

will be held in the Protestant Episcopal, Reman Catholic,

At Trinity Church, James Ayliffe will ring the chimes his morning, with changes and carols, beginning at

Mr. Houghton officiating. The following shoice programme has been arranged for the occasion:

gramme has been arranged for the occasion:

Processional Hymn 41, "Christians, awake, solute the
happy morn;" learnit, Hymn 42, H. Tammar, "O come
all ye faithful;" Kyrie, Hummel; Dieste Croed, 24 Mass,
Hummel; Offertory, "Beachietas," Hummel; Sanottas,
24 Mass, Hummel; Agmus Del. 24 Mass, Hummel; Chieria
in Excessis, 24 Mass, Hummael; Dune Dimittas; Roosssior al Hymn, 43, "Hark, the heraid augels sing,"

The descriptors of "Trigity Church, though heaviful.

The decorations of Trinity Church, though beautiful, and the distribution of presents from a well-filled troe.

Grace Church (P. E.) will be opened for the customary

given according to the following programme:

which was burned yesterday morning, will be held, at it a. m., in Nilson Hall, in East Fifteenth-st., near Irv-

At St. Patrick's Cathedral, in Mott-st., solomn High General Starrs. A number of intermediate Masses will follow, and at 10:30 n. m., the Right Rev. Architahop

Mass of Mandanici in G major, (four sole singers and chorus of 40 voices); Graduaie, "Adeste Pidelis;" Offer-toire, "Quam Dilecta;" Soprano solo by Diercadante; "Vent Creator," Stradella. Solemn Pontifical Vespers will be held at 4 p. m. by the

Vespers, by Generall; "Alma," by Concone; "Tantum Ergo," by Rossini.

ccording to the following programme:

The musical services to-day at St. Stophen's (R. C.). n East Twenty-eighth-st., will be unusually fine. Mo

preceded by the hymn, "Veni Creator," and the offertoire "Celeste fidelia."

in Excelsis," from Mozart's Twelfth Mase; Kotechmar's "To Deum." by 50 volces, and the recitative and chorus "Glory to Ged," from Handel's Oratorio of the Mossials

At 84 Mark's Church, services will be held by the Rev.